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FORMER MANCHESTER MAN SENT BACK TO PRISON FOR THIRD TIME

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and Chief of the U.S. Probation Office Thomas K. Tarr, announced that Bernard M. McLaughlin, 56 years of age and formerly of Manchester, NH was once again sentenced to federal prison on fraud charges, the third time since 1991. McLaughlin was originally convicted of fraud in January of 1991. At that time, then United States District Judge Norman Stahl, sentenced McLaughlin to a 15 month prison sentence followed by 5 years of probation.

After completing his prison sentence McLaughlin was released on probation. However, he was brought back before the Court in June of 1995 after allegations were made that he had swindled local individuals out of nearly \$150,000. On July 29, 1995, after finding that McLaughlin had in fact again been involved in fraudulent criminal activity, United States District Judge Steven McAuliffe, revoked McLaughlin's probation and re-sentenced him to serve another 7 years in prison to be followed by 2 years of probation. McLaughlin finished that 7 year prison sentence and has since then been living in Florida.

McLaughlin was once again before the Court yesterday to face allegations that he had again defrauded individuals while living in Florida on probation. It was alleged, among other charges, that McLaughlin had defrauded an elderly woman out of \$35,000. At the hearing yesterday, Judge McAuliffe found that McLaughlin did commit that fraud. The evidence presented at the hearing proved that McLaughlin, with a female accomplice, had induced the elderly woman to give him \$35,000 on the fraudulent pretense that he would cure her son of a serious drug problem. McLaughlin did nothing to cure the son and merely stole the money. At the hearing, Judge McAuliffe imposed the maximum prison sentence available, which was 2 years.

After the hearing, U.S. Attorney Tom Colantuono said, "This man has demonstrated abject incorrigibility. He has taken a prison sentence of 15 months and through his own misconduct turned it into a sentence of more than 10 years. Although many convicted defendants rehabilitate themselves, there are unfortunately some who are committed to a life of crime. It is recidivist behavior like this which reminds us all that we must be ever vigilant for financial predators like Mr. McLaughlin." This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Arnold Huftalen.